



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Boston Edison Company; Cambridge Electric Light Company; Commonwealth Electric Company; Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company; Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company; Verizon Massachusetts; and Western Massachusetts Electric Company

FROM: William Stevens, Hearing Officer

RE: Double Utility Poles Report, D.T.E. 03-87 - Designation of Lead Counsel; Motion to Amend H.O. Procedural Order; Semi-Annual Reports

DATE: July 20, 2005

CC: Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Alexander Cochis, Assistant Attorney General
Kelli Gunagan, Assistant Attorney General

On June 16, 2005, I issued a Hearing Officer Procedural Ruling that established a standardized format for filing semi-annual reports in order to: (1) update the progress on the elimination of the double pole backlog; (2) demonstrate compliance with the 90-day removal deadline for new double poles pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 34B; and (3) demonstrate compliance with the Department's directives in Report to the Legislature on Double Poles, D.T.E. 03-87 (2003) ("Procedural Order"). On July 19, 2005, in response to a joint request by Boston Edison Company; Cambridge Electric Light Company; Commonwealth Electric Company; Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company; Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company; Verizon Massachusetts; and Western Massachusetts Electric Company (the "Pole Owners") to discuss the Procedural Order and formalize a standardized format for the semi-annual reports, the Department conducted a technical conference.

At the technical conference, the Pole Owners agreed upon a standardized format in which to file their respective semi-annual reports. Should the Pole Owners be unable to submit their semi-annual reports by August 2, 2005, they will file a status report that indicates when they will submit their proposal. The Pole Owners' also agreed to file a joint motion to modify the Procedural Order. Fitchburg, MECo, and WMECo agreed to file revised Compliance Plans that includes an express deadline for the removal of all backlog double poles.

I request that the Pole Owners designate a lead counsel for the purpose of co-ordinating the filing of the joint motion and each company's semi-annual reports, and communicating with the Department on this issue. Please indicate the lead counsel no later than July 26, 2005.